

ALCOHOLIC POISONING.

Its Approach Is Imperceptible and Is Not Confined to Drunkards.

The observation of the chronic action of alcohol itself teaches us that as regards the easily destructible nervous tissue it is not by an accumulation of the toxic substance itself, but by the permanent consequences of its chemical action, which inaugurates merely imperceptible changes in the nervous tissue. These changes once inaugurated increase gradually and finally pass over into a permanently diseased condition.

This fact is of the utmost importance to a practical view of chronic alcoholism. It shows us why the apparition of chronic disease is not necessarily heralded by appreciable symptoms of acute poisoning. Hence medical experience, the more carefully and forcibly it is directed to this point, is so much the more strengthened in the conviction that it is by no means only the free drinkers and notorious drunkards who are victims to the prejudicial operation of alcohol, but also innumerable persons who would repel the appellation "drinker" with indignation.

As with almost all other acute and chronic intoxicants, alcohol affords an interesting example of the varying effects of one and the same poison on different systems as to the period at which disease announces itself, the form which it takes and the conditions under which it is rendered manifest. These facts are of theoretic interest, being clearly associated with the inmost conditions of our organization and practically important as rendering intelligible the numerous apparent contradictions which attend the manifestation of alcoholic poisoning. We must not, however, ascribe too much to differences of individual constitution. Other conditions must be taken into consideration to enable us to afford an intelligent explanation of the various forms in which alcoholic poisoning manifests itself.—Dr. Adolph Strumpell.

The Workingman's Greatest Curse.

The debasing, brutalizing influence of excessive drinking and saloon environment falls upon the laboring classes of our people with more disastrous effect than upon those better favored by fortune. The dreadful vice of intemperance has made frightful havoc among our hardworking people. What else but this spendthrift vice could afflict a large portion of our people with poverty so hopeless as to be like an incurable disease, a people to whom countless millions are yearly paid? What else huddles so many of them into the swarming tenement houses? I make no odious comparison between the intemperance of the wealthy and the intemperance of the poor. The heathenish vice of drunkenness is an abomination wherever its foul presence is known. I only state a fact which cannot be set aside—a fact which the philanthropist and the statesman cannot ignore—namely, that the greatest curse blighting the lives and desecrating the homes of the poor in this country today is the curse of drink.

The homes of comfort and luxury are, alas, too often blighted by the presence of the demon of intemperance, and drunkenness among the wealthier classes of people is equally odious and even more disgraceful than among the poor. But the poor are greater sufferers, and hence enlist our deeper sympathy when intemperance blights their lives.

for, in addition to the heartache and sorrow which the vice entails upon rich and poor, it adds the horrors of penury, beggary and hopeless degradation to the lives of the children of toil.—Father Cleary.

Alcohol Is a Pure Poison.

Dr. E. N. Allen says: "Alcohol is an artificial product obtained by fermentation and is never found in a simple state. It is a poison in both its nature and its effect. It is pronounced such by the highest authorities and proved to be such by the test of chemistry as well as physiology. Alcohol unadulterated is a pure poison, and though taken into the system in a diluted state without at first apparently any injurious effects it is still a poison and does the work of a poisonous agent."

A Wise Ruler.

King Humbert of Italy, like his father, Victor Emmanuel, is a firm believer in temperance. He tastes liquors and wines so seldom, in fact, that he is almost a total abstainer. This was illustrated a few weeks ago when his majesty visited a great vermuth distillery in Pallenzo. When the owner of the distillery offered the king a glass of his finest brand, so popular in the sunny land, he declined it, laughing, with the words: "I have been called to be the head of a wine producing nation par excellence and ought to set a good example in the consumption of our wines. Unfortunately—and I almost fear the admission—there is hardly a poorer wine drinker than myself in all Italy."

On state occasions and at official dinners King Humbert is of course obliged to drink some wine when toasting his guests or responding to their toasts. But he always takes as little of the wine as etiquette will permit. He merely touches the glass with his lips on other occasions, and when dining with his family rarely even tastes it. His son, it is said, cares almost as little for wine as his father and grandfather.—Chicago Tribune.

Where the Danger Begins.

Seeing the folly and danger of drinking to excess is no safe preventive. Thousands see these and yet drink, and because they drink at first moderately in the end they get drunk and dangerous. The folly began with the moderate drinking, for to drink at all is to get into danger. All such drinking, rightly viewed, is drinking to excess, just as all dietetic use of arsenic or opium is eating to excess.—Selected.

History Repeated.

The ancient Spartans destroyed their puny children, and modern semibarbarous nations foster the saloon, an institution which kills off their puny minded inhabitants—another historical repetition.—Voice.

A Problem In "Proportion."

As the hours spent in the churches stand to those of liquor dives;
As a part of day to seven spent in wrecking human lives;
As the number of the sermons stands to that of glasses filled;
As the number saved by churches to the millions drink has killed;
As the few that are true workers are to those who sit supine;
Make no effort in resistance to the work of beer and wine;
As such zeal (?) in Christian effort is to that in liquor's case,
So stands liquor's work to churches and their chances in the race.

—Church Militant.

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